The Scientists concluded that predicting extremes such as the severe drought remains an extremely challenging problem. However, with further efforts in development of empirical methods and more investigations with general circulation models, the scientists expect improvement in the skill of prediction of rainfall of the season and for the monsoon month of July.To achieve this, a multi pronged approach was recommended. More observations over the ocean with ships, buoys, floats, etc. are required. Special observational experiments such as BOBMEX conducted over the Bay of Bengal in 1999 and ARMEX over the Arabian Sea in 2002 are needed on a regular basis. Further research in atmospheric models aimed towards developing a unified model which can generate robust simulations of the monsoon and its variability is essential. More work on ocean models for simulating the conditions over the Indian Ocean from the enhanced observational network is necessary.

Experts from foreign countries did not participate in this meeting.

**Indo-Russia venture for transfer of Technologies**

3261. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the India-Russia Joint Centre, being set-up for transfer of technologies evolved through collaborative efforts, would be concentrating only on new and innovative technologies or it would also upgrade the already transferred technologies in fields like Defence Aircrafts, etc., with a view to minimizing accident rate; and

(b) if so, what sensitive projects in other fields are contemplated, where gestation period is low and quick results are achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The proposed Centre aims to catalyse industrial realization of results of joint projects implemented/being implemented under ILTP (Integrated Long Term Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology) as well as other high-tech accomplishments available on either side. The proposed Centre will help industry in updating technologies and also encourage creation of joint ventures around advanced technologies in both countries with focus on technologies capable of industrial and commercial application in civil sector.